

2002-2003 Pollution Prevention

Annual Report



*Office of Pollution Prevention
and Technical Assistance*

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Dear Constituents:

I am pleased to submit IDEM's 2003 Annual Report on Pollution Prevention in Indiana.

The establishment of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance (OPPTA) has allowed IDEM and our partners, the Indiana Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute, the Clean Manufacturing Technology Board and the Indiana Partners for Pollution Prevention, to work with Indiana's manufacturers to incorporate pollution prevention into their everyday operations, as well as into their long-term planning.

A draft version of this report was released on December 29, 2003, and made available for public comment for 45 days. This final report responds to the public comments received during this period. This report, covering the time period of January 1, 2002, through October 31, 2003, represents a time of change for OPPTA, our associational partners and our manufacturing partners. Together, we faced the challenges of a slowed economy, and learned to do more with fewer resources.

This partnership realized a number of successes in 2003. We were recognized as a national leader in using pollution prevention to reduce styrene emissions. A decade of efforts to reduce the use of methylene chloride paid off with a 73% decline in emissions. We also achieved significant reductions in carcinogenic chemical releases. I say "we" because this progress was possible through the partnerships OPPTA has nurtured and seen grow exponentially since being established in 1990.

I.C. 13-27-6 requires IDEM to prepare an annual report describing the state's pollution prevention activities to the Indiana General Assembly. These activities are vast in scope and powerful in their impact on Indiana's industries, citizens and environment. OPPTA staff are dedicated to helping Hoosier businesses understand and apply pollution prevention practices in practical, economical, and often cost-saving ways.

While tremendous progress has been made, many opportunities remain. Over the next year, OPPTA will work with partners across the state to improve on this progress. We will see the results of the Governor's Toxic Reduction Challenge and develop a new voluntary pollution prevention challenge for Indiana. Efforts to promote regulatory integration of pollution prevention will continue within the agency. And, new efforts to reduce toxic releases will occur. I am confident our partnerships will enable us to continue to build industry support and involvement in pollution prevention. Together, we will make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place for all Hoosiers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori F. Kaplan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori F. Kaplan
COMMISSIONER

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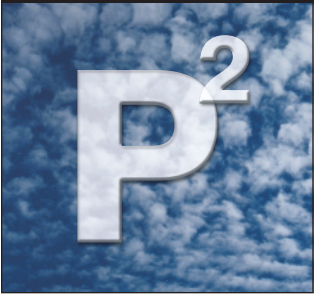
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Pollution Prevention in a Changing Economy

Whether Hoosier businesses are striving to improve worker safety, decrease regulatory requirements, or improve product quality, implementing pollution prevention strategies can offer many benefits throughout the life of a business or organization. Of course, the benefit we watch most closely at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is the direct effect pollution prevention measures have on our environment.

This report provides a brief overview of IDEM's pollution prevention efforts over the past two years and their impact on Indiana's environment. Indiana statute (IC 13-27-2) tasks the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance (OPPTA) with integrating pollution prevention as a voluntary option into the regulatory process, providing technical assistance, maintaining a technical resource center, and conducting broad-based educational programs. Other IDEM offices have also implemented pollution prevention and sustainability initiatives, contributing to IDEM's core goal of improving Indiana's environment. The Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA) manages several pollution prevention outreach efforts, and the Offices of Air Quality, Land Quality, Water Quality, and Enforcement continue to find success with pollution prevention through regulatory integration in new rules and enforcement settlements. IDEM continues to work in partnership with industry, local government, academia and citizens to further the pursuit of pollution prevention in Indiana. Despite economic challenges, IDEM has met the need to become more creative and efficient as it works to make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live.

The past two years have been a time of change for OPPTA, as they have for businesses across Indiana. The slowing economy has created new challenges for all, and OPPTA has learned to successfully manage increased demands with fewer resources. With the recent elimination of its Operations Branch, OPPTA is now an office of three branches: Voluntary Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Source Reduction and Recycling. The duties and functions of the former Operations Branch have been absorbed and incorporated into the remaining branches. In addition, total OPPTA staff has been reduced from 26 in 2001 to 19 in 2003, a 27 percent decrease. OPPTA has continued to further its mission of reducing pollution prevention barriers, providing incentives for pollution prevention, and measuring statewide pollution prevention progress.



Long standing, successful programs, including the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence, the 5-Star Environmental Recognition Programs and the Pollution Prevention Annual Conference, have continued to develop and grow. New programs and initiatives, including programs for mercury reduction, integrated pest management, regulatory integration, and diesel idling, have been integrated into IDEM's pollution prevention efforts.

OPPTA's Compliance and Technical Assistance Program (CTAP), which provides confidential pollution prevention and compliance assistance to small businesses through telephone calls, site visits and workshops, has addressed the challenge to do more with less.

As expected with production decreases, Indiana's statewide toxic chemical release total decreased 9 percent from 2000 to 2001. However, pollution prevention efforts by Indiana industries also played a significant role in this decrease. Several industry sectors made significant reductions in releases through pollution prevention technologies and opportunities. In addition, many Hoosier facilities met the Governor's Toxic Reduction Challenge and voluntarily implemented pollution prevention measures to reduce toxic chemical releases at their facilities.

In January 2003, the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable published a 10-year report on the results of national and statewide pollution prevention efforts. The report clearly shows that pollution prevention plays a vital role in successful environmental results and can have very large impacts with minimal investment. Pollution prevention has become an integral part of many IDEM services. Continued efforts need to be made in the area of regulatory integration by increasing the visibility of pollution prevention in permits, rules and enforcement settlements. As successes occur for reductions in toxic chemical releases, doors open for new technology and opportunities for further reductions. Increased efforts to build stronger partnerships with industry, community and others for voluntary reductions at local levels, as well as improved methods of measuring pollution prevention successes, must occur. Finally, OPPTA will continue to promote proven pollution prevention methods for all to implement.